

The Environmental Notice – July 23, 2005

State of Hawaii – Department of Health
Office of Environmental Quality Control (OEQC)
235 South Beretania St., Suite 702
Honolulu, HI 96813
(808) 586-4185 – Telephone / (808) 586-4186 – Fax
<http://www.state.hi.us/health/oeqc>

Fort Barrette Road Widening (HRS 343 DEA)

District: Ewa
TMK: (1) 9-1-016, 059, 068, 106, & 120
Proposing Agency: Dept. of Transportation-Highway Division
Kahkuhihewa Bldg., 601 Kamokila Blvd.,
Kapolei, HI 96707
Contact: Ms. Li Nah Okita (692-7581)

Determination Agency: Same as above.
Consultant: Parsons Brinckerhoff Quade & Douglas, Inc.
ASB Tower, 1001 Bishop St. Ste. 2400, Honolulu, HI 96813
Contact: Nami Ohtomo (531-7094)

Public Comment Deadline: August 22, 2005
Status: Draft environmental assessment (DEA) notice pending 30-day public comment. Address comments to the proposing agency with copies to the consultant and OEQC.

Permits Required: Street Usage Permit, Grubbing, Grading, Excavation & Stockpiling Permit, Noise Permit and others

The State of Hawai'i Department of Transportation (HDOT), in cooperation with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), proposes to widen Fort Barrette Road from a two-lane undivided roadway to a four-lane divided roadway with a

raised median. In conjunction with the widening, HDOT also proposes to rehabilitate the O'ahu Railway & Land (OR&L) railroad crossing and install a crossing gate.

HDOT proposes the widening because the existing road does not provide enough capacity to accommodate existing and anticipated future traffic demand. The project is consistent with existing government plans and policies to develop the necessary roadway infrastructure for Kapolei, O'ahu's second city.

Proposed improvements include bike lanes, sidewalks, curb and gutters, utilities, lighting, traffic signals, and intersection improvements. A closed drainage system is proposed for the northern part of the roadway to avoid contamination of a potable aquifer and retain roadway runoff within the ROW. Roadway design would also utilize a specialized, underground storm water detention and infiltration system, where feasible.

Project planning involved consultation with cultural experts, as a result of which HDOT believes the project, would not adversely affect Puu Kapolei. The project would also improve degraded conditions at the OR&L railroad crossing by replacing tracks and ties in the historic OR&L Right-of-Way (ROW). The work is anticipated to result in a "net benefit" to this historic property; nevertheless, the FHWA is likely to render an "adverse effect" determination under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), because of the replacement of the railroad components.



Project Site



Todd K. Apo
Councilmember



Ewa-Ewa Beach-Honouliuli-West Loch
Kapolei-Kalaeloa-Honokai Hale / Nanakai Gardens-Ko Olina
Nanakuli-Wai'anae-Makaha-Keaau-Makua

MONTHLY REPORT

August 2005

Councilmember's Message

Aloha,

Changes in committees at the City Council occurred last month. With those changes, I now chair the Transportation Committee and Vice Chair the Budget Committee. My other committee memberships include Zoning, Public Works, and Executive Matters. I am looking forward to the challenges of these new committee assignments, and believe they will be helpful to me in continuing to serve our district.

Transportation. Bill 40, the general excise tax legislation, will be before the council again. It will be in committee on Tuesday August 2 and, assuming it passes out of committee, before the full Council for final reading on Wednesday August 10. I continue to receive numerous emails and messages from both sides of this bill. As you may know, I have supported moving Bill 40 forward at this time, and would like to take this opportunity to again share my rationale for this position:

- Under Bill 40, we will not start any tax increase until 2007
- The revenue can ONLY be used for a selected transportation system
- The City is required to enact this legislation by the end of this year, and therefore, cannot wait until the alternative analysis is completed to determine what the "preferred" transportation system will be
- Without this legislation, we will not have the ability to provide large scale and long term transportation solutions that require significant funding

The main complain I hear about Bill 40 is that we do not have a plan in front of us showing what this new tax will be used for. This is true. However, the State legislation (HB1309) requires us to pass Bill 40 this year, and does not allow us the opportunity to complete a transportation study prior to passing Bill 40. The more important point, however, is that I will not support the implementation of any GET increase in 2007 if, by that time, we do not have a complete plan on what the transportation system will be, showing the construction and operations costs of the proposal. There are many opinions on what our transportation solution should be. The bottom line is that we MUST find a solution for West Oahu and we must have the ability to fund it.

Real Property Tax Relief. In regards to other City taxes, as the new Vice Chair of Budget, I have met with Chair Kobayashi and helps put some finishing touches on a bill that would provide real property tax relief to those in most need of such protection. Bill 6 will provide a cap on the amount of real property tax that certain property owner would be required to pay if the owner meets certain conditions. This expands the current "circuit breaker" protection by removing any age restriction and increasing the allowable income requirements on those seeking such protection. Bill 6 will also be before the Council for final reading on August 10.

As always, please contact my office at 547-7001, by fax at 523-4220 or by email at tapo@honolulu.gov.

YOUR DISTRICT 1 STAFF AT YOUR SERVICE

Todd K. Apo, Councilmember
Gemma Espresion, Administrative Aide
Guy Kaulukukui, Ph.D., Senior Advisor
Charmaine Doran, Legislative Analyst

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Legislative Aides:

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Karen Awana, Wai'anae Coast
Honolulu Office: 527-5815
Kapolei Office: 692-5829

Our offices are located at:
Honolulu Hale – 530 S. King St., 2nd Floor
Kapolei Hale – 1000 Uluohia St., Suite 201

Councilmember Todd K Apo
and West-side Solutions

Airing on Olelo Channel 54

Sundays @ 8:30 PM

Eyes on Ewa *by Wendy Sefo*

Dumping at Oneale Beach Park (Hau Bush)

Have you seen the stacks of tires, old computer monitors, refrigerators, other household appliances and automobile parts that are being regularly dumped near the comfort station? In addition to the burned out automobiles and large household appliances that litter the oceanfront just past the point near the comfort station, a recent visit to the park found stacks and stacks of trash.

To combat this rampant dumping problem at Hau Bush; and in addition to the City's "Report Illegal Dumping" Website and the efforts of the Ewa Beach Ohana and others; Councilmember Apo is working with the Department of Parks and **CrimeStoppers** to get the necessary signage posted at Hau Bush and provide a hotline for people to call to report the illegal dumpers. **CrimeStoppers** will pay a cash reward of up to \$1,000.00 for information that leads to the identification of suspects who are illegally dumping, are wanted for felony crimes, the arrest of wanted fugitives for felony or serious domestic violence warrants, the recovery of stolen items or illegal drugs.

Dumping any kind of trash and / or discarding used household items and automobile parts in any park or other public place is expressly prohibited under the Revised Ordinances of Honolulu beginning in Chapter 29 Article 4. The ordinance reads in part:

Sec. 29-4.4 Prohibited activities.

(a) No person shall:

(1) Throw or deposit litter on any street or sidewalk and in any park or other public or private property within the city, except in public or private receptacles, and in such a manner that the litter will be prevented from being carried or deposited by the elements upon any part of the park, street, sidewalk or other public or private property. Where public or private receptacles are not provided, all such litter shall be carried away by the person responsible for its presence and properly disposed of;

Sec. 29-4.5 Cost of litter removal.

(a) Any person responsible for littering shall be liable to the city for the cost of removing such litter. The bill for the cost of removal shall be issued by the department of environmental services or the department of parks and recreation and shall state the amount to be charged by the city. The cost of removal shall be the actual cost incurred by the city, plus any administrative expenses associated with said removal; provided, however, that the amount to be charged shall not be less than five dollars. Nothing in this section shall be deemed to constitute a waiver of the city's right to issue a citation pursuant to Section 29-4.7 (a) including in instances where the person littering refuses to remove said litter or refuses to pay the city for the city's removal of said litter.

Sec. 29-4.7 Enforcement.

(a) Any person charged with violating Section 29-4.4(a) shall be served with a citation and an order to appear before the district court. Any person charged with a first violation may, within seven days of the issuance of the citation, appear at the district court and post a bail bond in the amount of the minimum fine imposed for the offense charged, as determined by the court, for appearance at the next succeeding session of the court. Upon failure to appear at such succeeding session, said bail bond shall be deemed forfeited. The failure of such violator to make such appearance or payment within said seven days shall render such person subject to charges and to the penalties prescribed in Section 29-4.8.

As many of you are aware, Ewa Beach has the Ewa Convenience Center located on Geiger Road, near the gate of the former Barbers Point NAS. Its hours of operation are 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. daily. The convenience centers are reserved for residential waste material only. Commercial or business refuse (from tree trimmers, roofers, plumbers, small stores, farmers, etc.) is strictly prohibited. Delivery vehicles are limited to pickup trucks, mini-vans or automobiles. Business-owned vehicles are permitted, provided they are limited to the above types and are delivering residential waste. In order to provide convenience to all, no more than two loads per resident will be allowed per day. Most items from your home will be accepted; however, certain items are restricted or prohibited.

For more information on disposing of your large household items and/or automobile parts log onto the City's website: www.opala.org or contact the convenience center telephone at 226-2996.

Stay Tuned: Councilmember Apo is working with City Parks department, City Environmental Services department, Hawaii Metal Recycling, Haseko (Ewa) Inc. and the “Get the DRIFT and Bag It” campaign in September to remove the old cars and large household items dumped along the shoreline just past the point.

Working within Waianae *by Karen Awana*

Back to School Jam

Many schools along the Waianae Coast have already resumed classes. Commuters may have noticed that traffic has increased slightly. For those who travel beyond the Leeward side of the island, the back to school jam will begin this month.

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Students attending Public schools on a traditional schedule begin classes during the third week in August. Classes for the University of Hawaii school system will commence on Tuesday, August 23.

Listed below are some helpful ideas and suggestions to ease your commute.

- 1) Carpool – Contact friends and co-workers living near you and carpool. Advantages: Depending on the amount of riders are in the vehicle, High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) Lanes are at your disposal. You can share the cost of rising gasoline prices.
- 2) Vanpool – Vanpool Hawaii serves the commuting needs by offering ridesharing. Advantages: For a minimal fee, you can share the cost of fuel and parking. There are no maintenance and insurance costs. For more information contact Vanpool Hawaii at 596-VANS. Website: <http://www.vanpoolhawaii.com>
- 3) Bus – The Waianae Coast is one of the few areas that have 24 hour City and County bus service. Advantages: With the increase in service, there is a bus route for you. The cost for a monthly bus pass is \$40.00 (adult) and \$20.00 (youth). There is special pricing for seniors and persons with disabilities. Busses are wheelchair accessible and bike racks are available for your use. For route information contact 848-5555. Website: <http://thebus.org>
- 4) Bicycle – For those who are physically fit you might consider bicycling. Advantages: Ride into town on the City bus and bike to your job. Avoid high parking lot fees as many parking lots provide bike racks for your use at no extra charge. For those who live close to home, bicycling is a great way to exercise. Website: <http://www.co.honolulu.hi.us/dts/bikepage.htm>
- 5) Employer Programs – Some employers offer variable work hour programs or ridesharing incentives such as preferential or free parking privileges for carpoolers/vanpoolers, transportation allowances, or free or subsidized passes for TheBus. Call your Human Resources Department or the TDM Office at 692-7695 for more information.

In all cases, organization is the key.

Make sure your vehicles are in proper working order. You may want to have your mechanic service your engine just in case. Leave early. Anticipate possible delays, especially during the first few months of the school year. Prepare in advance. The night before, decide on your wardrobe, prepare lunch and have any paperwork for the following day completed.

Hope this information helps you and your families in their daily commute.

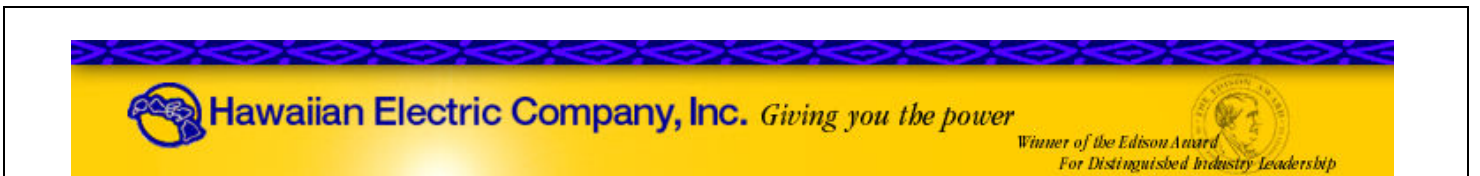
The Analyst's Report: Oahu Metropolitan Planning Organization *by Charmaine Doran*

The Oahu Metropolitan Planning Organization (OMPO) was created in 1975 by the Hawaii State Legislature to fulfill a federal mandate rendered in the 1973 Federal Surface Transportation Assistance Act. This act required the formation of a Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for any urbanized area to ensure that existing and future federal expenditures for transportation projects and programs were based on a comprehensive, cooperative, and continuing (3-C) planning process. As such, OMPO's principal objective is the on-going improvement and development of the Oahu Regional Transportation Plan, Overall Work Program, and the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). OMPO's membership and its three key committee's, function as the primary vehicle to achieve this end.

Members participating in OMPO include City Councilmember's, State Senators, State Representatives, State and Federal transportation departments and agencies, community organizations groups and neighborhood boards. These members sit and work within different OMPO committees, including the Policy Committee, Technical Committee and Citizen Advisory Committee. Each committee tackles a sundry of transportation projects at different stages or concentrates on a certain aspect of the planning process. The Policy Committee reviews all actions and serves as the final decision-making body for OMPO.

At OMPO's last meeting held July 20, 2005, discussions about proposed amendments to the 2004-2006 and 2006-2008 TIP occurred. At this same meeting, OMPO also held its annual Policy Committee elections for the 2006-2007 year. Councilmember Apo was elected as the Committee's Vice-Chair. Serving OMPO is an additional task for the Councilmember that comes with being the new Chair of the Council's Transportation Committee. Councilmember Apo looks forward to participating in OMPO and having the added opportunity to work on pending transportation priorities, particularly those projects that are planned for District 1.

For more information about the Oahu Metropolitan Planning Organization, please visit OMPO's website at <http://www.oahumpo.org/> or call 587-2015.



Potential Wind Project - Kahe Wind Farm (Nanakuli, Oahu)
Kahe Wind Monitoring Assessment

July 2005

Background

Hawaiian Electric Company has completed over a year of on-site monitoring of the strength, direction and turbulence of wind on the ridges above HECO's Kahe Power Plant in Nanakuli.

The monitoring confirmed what computer-generated, high-resolution wind resource maps previously showed: this area has one of Oahu's strongest wind resources.

Before the monitoring began, in meetings with community leaders and Hawaiian cultural representatives, HECO promised to help educate the community on wind energy and to return to the community to report the findings of the monitoring before making any decision on whether to go ahead with installing a wind farm.

HECO is in the process of reporting to the community. At three public meetings, a video about wind energy produced by students at Nanakuli High School will be shown. HECO will present monitoring results, answer questions and listen to community comments.

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Monitoring shows that a wind farm on the site is feasible. It could consist of 24 to 26 wind turbines in the 1.5-megawatt size capable of generating 36 to 39 megawatts. This is equivalent to the power used by about 15,000 homes. A typical 1.5-MW wind turbine is about 260 feet from ground to the hub and the blade is about 115 feet from hub to tip, totaling about 380 feet at the tallest point. Some turbines would be visible from parts of the Leeward Coast.

Your Comments

To express an opinion about a wind farm on Oahu by September 1, 2005, send your comment to kahewind@heco.com or write to us at:

Wind Energy Comment AT8-3V
Hawaiian Electric Company
P.O. Box 2750
Honolulu, Hawaii 96840-0001

Updates

Information on the project, including maps, aerial views and periodic updates will be posted at www.heco.com under Renewable Energy.